How to Access and Score NGSS Sample Items

These sample items illustrate the rigor and complexity of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) items, while allowing students to quickly become familiar with the item interactions and navigational tools that are used in NGSS assessments. These items have been organized into sets, called clusters, designed to engage the student in a grade-appropriate, meaningful scientific activity aligned to a specific standard.

The information below provides instructions to access and score these sample items in AIR’s Test Delivery System (TDS).

Accessing the Science Sample Items

2. Click on the NGSS Sample Items card on the home page. You will be directed to AIR’s Test Delivery System.

3. The sign-in page appears. Click Sign In to access the NGSS Sample Items.

Note: The First Name and Student ID fields are pre-populated with GUEST.
4 From the Student Grade Level drop-down menu, select **Elementary School**, **Middle School**, or **High School** to explore and score NGSS Sample Items.

*Note: For the purposes of this brochure, we will select Elementary School from the drop-down menu.*

5 The **Your Tests** page appears. Click the available test to continue.

6 Select any test settings that you would like to use while exploring the NGSS Sample Items or continue with the default test settings. Click **Select** to continue.
7 Review the test settings you selected in the previous step and verify that they are correct. If the test settings are accurate, click **Yes** to continue.

8 When prompted, please play the sample video and sound to complete the video and audio playback are working as intended. To continue click **I could play the video and sound**.

**Note:** This is a standard sound and video check screen used for many different assessments. The science sample items may include short videos (animations) but not sound, unless the student will be using test-to-speech. The use of text-to-speech will require headphones.
Read through the Instructions and Help page and click Begin Test Now to continue to the sample items.
Exploring and Scoring the NGSS Science Items

1. Read the passage on the left side of the screen, then answer each component of the item.

   **Note:** You can click the arrows to expand the passage or expand the items.

2. Click the **Context Menu** to expand the menu options. Then, click **Score Item**.
The **Scoring Results** appear in a pop-up window. Evaluate the results generated in the **Scoring Criteria** column and in the **Your Answer** column for each part of the item. In the **Your Answer** column, ✗ represents an incorrect answer and ✓ represents a correct answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your response earned 1 point(s) of a possible 4</th>
<th>Your answer</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The student correctly answered the scientific question A in part A by selecting &quot;Force strength increased&quot; or &quot;Force strength decreased&quot; if they varied the distance in the simulation or correctly answered scientific question B in part A by selecting &quot;Force direction changed&quot; if they varied magnet position in the simulation, indicating that they can make and record observations about the size of magnetic forces based on orientation and distance between the objects.</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student ran their experiment correctly by holding orientation constant while varying distance if A was selected in part A or by holding distance constant while varying orientation if B was selected in part A such that they could answer their selected question, indicating that they can manipulate variables to gather information about the cause and effect relationships of magnetic interactions.</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student picked &quot;A. How does the distance affect the force&quot; or &quot;B. How does the orientation affect the force&quot; indicating they understand what questions are scientific and can be tested using this simulation.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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